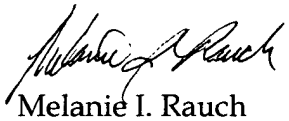
REMARKS

The specification has been amended to more accurately describe the steps taken in the Example on page 20. No new matter has been added.

Applicants believe that no fee is due at this time. If, however, a fee is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-3550.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification, at page 20, lines 4-22:

SMSM-CR54 fibers were made according to the method described in U.S. Patent No. 5,858,021. The curl index of the SMSM-CR54 fibers was 0.336 and the WRV of the SMSM-CR54 fibers was between 1.02 and 1.05 g/g. One hundred grams (100 g) of the dry SMSM-CR54 fibers were wetted with 100 g of deionized water and mixed with an [equal amount (100 g)] additional 100 g of deionized water. BELCLENE DP80 polymeric reactive compound and sodium hypophosphite catalyst were added to the fibers at an addition amount of 3 wt% and 1.5 wt%, respectively, based on dry weight of the fibers, to provide intrafiber cross-linking. The wetted SMSM-CR54 fibers, polymeric reactive compound, and catalyst were thoroughly mixed in a mixer at room temperature (25 degrees Celsius) for about 30 to 40 minutes. After the mixing, the fibers were then thoroughly dried at room temperature to avoid any chemical reactions between the fibers. After the fibers were thoroughly dried, the fibers were then individualized at room temperature using a fiberizer. The fibers were individualized, i.e. set apart from one another, to prevent the polymeric reactive compound and the catalyst from reacting between fibers as interfiber reactions, and instead limiting the reactions of the polymeric reactive compound and the catalyst to occurring within only single fibers as intrafiber reactions. The individualized fibers were then cured at 170 degrees Celsius for 2 minutes to initiate intrafiber cross-linking.